Wages revision in newspaper industry

493. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major associations of Journalists and non-journalists have demanded immediate wage revision in the newspaper industry and news-agencies in view of everrising inflation and diminishing wages; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various Associations and Organisations of Newspaper employees regarding revision of wages. In view of the fact that a large number of writ petitions challenging the Bachawat Wage Board Award under the Working Journalists Act are pending in the Supreme Court, it has been decided sot to set up a new Wage Board for the Journalist and Non-Journalist employees for the present.

Physical conditions of Labour working in Beed factories

494. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the physical condition of workers working in various Beedi factories in Madhya Pradesh has been affected by various diseases particularly TB and Cancer;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the findings there of; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to improve the health conditions of Beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) No specific report about health conditions of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh is available. However, it is seen that beedi workers generally suffer from general weakness, tiredness, headache, giddiness, blurred vision, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, chest pain, cough with expectoration breathlessness and joint pain.

(b) Central Government has not conducted any survey in respect of physical conditions of workers working in beedi factories in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For supplementisg the efforts of the State Government to meet the health needs of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh, the Central Government had already set up 22 Static and Static-*cum*-mobile dispensaries under Labour Welfare Organisation. In addition to this following schemes are also being operated to provide health facilities to beedi workers and their family members:

(i) scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. hospitals, (ii) scheme for domiciliary treatment of workers suffering from TB, (iii) scheme for reimbursement of actual treatment charges for workers suffering from Cancer, (iv) scheme for Maternity Benefit, (v) scheme for providing facilities for treatment of workers suffering from mental diseases, (vi) scheme for Leprosy relief and (vii) schme for grant of financial assistance for purchase of spectacles.

Mentral legislation for building and construction workers

495. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3979 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the proposal for enactment of a Central Legislation for Building and Construction workers;